

# Oakland Officer Fired After Beating Incident

AUG 11 1972

Patrolman Douglas L. Butler, 25, a three-year member of the Oakland Police Department, was fired yesterday for allegedly slugging and kicking a man who had just been arrested by two other officers.

Butler's dismissal came on the recommendation of City Manager Jerome Keithley, acting on a report by Chief Charles R. Gain.

According to the report Butler was one of six officers who gave chase to a fleeing car driven by William Welch, 25.

Welch ran from his home at

3309 Harrison St. as two officers arrived in response to a family fight call.

After a high-speed chase that lasted 12 minutes through North Oakland shortly after midnight, Welch returned to his home, where he was taken into custody without a struggle by Officers Holland and James Parr.

As they were leading Welch to a patrol car, Butler drove up, leaped from his car and ran up to Welch. Without provocation, he punched the prisoner in the face, knocking him

to the sidewalk, then kicked him in the chest, the report said.

Holland grabbed Butler, restraining him from further attack.

The report from the chief listed five violations of departmental rules in recommending his summary dismissal.

Welch was later arraigned on 49 traffic violations and will enter a plea Thursday.

During the chase, Welch rammed a patrol car with his own automobile, but officers said it was not Butler's car that was struck.

# Fired Police SEP 14 1972 Officer Is Reinstated

An Oakland police officer fired last month after he was accused of slugging and kicking a man who was under arrest has won his job back.

Patrolman Douglas L. Butler, 25, was reinstated by the Oakland Civil Service Commission following a seven-hour hearing on his appeal Tuesday night.

Commissioners ruled that there was insufficient evidence to warrant the dismissal of Butler ordered by former City Manager Jerome Keithley Aug. 10.

Butler, a three-year member of the police department, was accused of attacking a man who had been arrested by two other officers following a high speed chase.

# Cop Fired — Bar Beating

8.19.75

An Oakland policeman with a record of violence was fired from his job yesterday after he was arrested and charged with beating and seriously injuring a bar patron in a fight last month.

Douglas L. Butler, 29, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon resulting in great bodily injury, a felony, following an investigation of the July 27 incident.

Police said Butler was off-duty

in the White Horse Bar at 6501 Telegraph avenue, Oakland, when he got into a fight with 26-year-old Charles T. Brown.

Brown was subsequently taken to Merritt Hospital where he was treated for head injuries and underwent surgery for internal injuries.

According to Oakland Police Chief George T. Hart, Butler admitted during a subsequent investigation that he struck Brown with

a flashlight and kicked him on the floor.

Butler, who was booked into Oakland City Prison and then released on his own recognizance is scheduled to appear in Oakland Municipal Court next Tuesday.

Butler was discharged from the force in 1972 when then Chief Charles Gaines said he was alleged to have struck a prisoner while on duty, but he was returned to duty after he successfully appealed to the city's civil service board.

# Cop Fired Again for Beating

EE AUG 20 1975

Police Officer Donald L. Butler, 29, fired from the Oakland force for violence in 1972 but reinstated, was discharged again yesterday for beating a man in a bar last month.

The incident occurred while Butler was off-duty.

He is scheduled to appear in court Tuesday on a felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon resulting in great bodily injury following the incident July 27 in the White Horse bar at 6501 Telegraph Ave.

According to police, Butler got in a fight with Charles T. Brown, 26, who underwent surgery at Merritt Hospital for internal injuries and treatment of head wounds.

Police Chief George T. Hart said Butler admitted striking Brown on the head with his flashlight and kicking him after he fell to the floor.

In 1972, Butler was fired for striking and kicking a prisoner after an arrest, but was reinstated on an appeal to the civil service board.



# Assault Case Is Dismissed

JAN 29 1976

A charge of assault with a deadly weapon against former Oakland police officer Douglas L. Butler has been dismissed by Municipal Court Judge Jacqueline Taber.

Judge Taber ended a preliminary hearing Monday after discounting testimony by Charles T. Brown, 27, who was injured last July 27 in an incident at the White Horse Bar, 6501 Telegraph Ave.

Police Chief George T. Hart said Butler, 29, admitted striking Brown on the head with his flashlight and kicking him after he fell on the floor. The department discharged Butler after investigating the incident.

Before Judge Taber, Brown's testimony on one point was contradicted by his wife.

Butler is appealing for reinstatement to the department. He was reinstated once before after being fired for violence in 1972.

# Apartment manager murdered

SUN JUN 3 1984

Elbert Jones, 52, the assistant manager of an apartment complex at 407 Fairmount Ave., died after being shot in the abdomen as he stood near the building's swimming pool, Oakland Police said yesterday.

A prospective tenant, 37-year-old Douglas Butler, was arrested for questioning shortly after the shooting. Jones, who died after undergoing surgery at Providence Hospital, was shot several times with a handgun during the course of an argument with a man around 11:40 a.m. Friday, police said.

Investigators said they were interviewing several people in the area of the pool over the weekend.

# Ex-cop held in slaying of building manager

By Harry Harris  
The Tribune

JUN 6 1984

An ex-Oakland police officer, fired twice for using excessive force, was charged yesterday with the shooting death of an assistant apartment house manager.

Douglas L. Butler, 37, was arrested about an hour after Friday's fatal shooting of Elbert Jones.

Jones was the popular assistant manager of the apartment complex where the shooting occurred, in the 400 block of Fairmount Avenue.

According to police, Butler had been staying free of charge in one of the units until he could come up with the rent money.

Witnesses told police they had seen the two men in what appeared to be an argument on a walkway near their apartments. Gunshots were then heard, and Butler was seen running into his apartment as he stuffed something in his waistband.

He fled, but was arrested about an hour later when he returned to the building. He declined to give a statement, according to Sgt. Dan Murray.

In August of 1972, according to city records, Butler, then a three-year member of the department, was fired after he allegedly punched and kicked a prisoner already being detained by two other officers.

He was ordered reinstated the next month by the city Civil Service Commission, which after a 7-hour hearing, ruled there was "insufficient evidence" to warrant his dismissal.

In August of 1975 Butler was again fired when he got into a fight with a patron while off duty at a Telegraph Avenue tavern, striking the man with a flashlight and kicking him.

Criminal charges of assault were filed against Butler, but they were subsequently dismissed by a municipal court judge. His efforts to regain his job this time were unsuccessful.

Before Friday's arrest, Butler was already facing charges of drug and gun possession.



# Mistrial declared in murder case of twice-fired Oakland officer

TUE SEP 24 1985

By Ramon Coronado  
The Tribune

A mistrial was declared yesterday in the murder trial of a former Oakland policeman twice fired for using excessive force on duty.

Judge Alfred Delucchi of Alameda County Superior Court declared a mistrial in the case of Douglas Leon Butler after the jury announced it was hopelessly deadlocked 11-1, favoring a guilty verdict.

Butler, 39, who also faces charges of illegal possession of a firearm and possession of cocaine in another unrelated case, remains in custody on a \$100,000 bond.

Yesterday's action was Butler's second mistrial in four months. The earlier trial was abruptly ended after a juror violated a court order by reading a

newspaper account of the case.

Although the first jury had found Butler guilty, the trial was ended before jurors could decide between first- and second-degree murder verdicts.

Yesterday's hung jury came after five days of deliberation in which a lone juror was apparently not convinced that Butler was the gunman who killed Elbert Jones, a 52-year-old assistant manager of a Fairmount Avenue apartment building in Oakland.

Jones was shot in the back with two .38-caliber slugs June 1, 1984. The murder weapon was never recovered and a motive has never been disclosed.

Although there were no eyewitnesses to the shooting, there were two witnesses who testified that seconds after hearing gunshots they saw Butler running

from the alley where Jones was shot.

Testimony also indicated that before the shooting, Butler and Jones were seen arguing. Butler, who apparently was not working, was staying at the apartment complex free of charge.

During the last four-week trial, Butler didn't testify and his public defender, Beverly Daniels, did not present defense witnesses.

When Butler was arrested an hour after the shooting he refused to give a statement to police.

Deputy District Attorney Aaron Payne said he will prosecute Butler for a third time and expects a new trial within two months.

During Butler's two trials, jurors were not told of the defendant's police background.



# Ex-Oakland officer guilty of murder

**SAT DEC 14 1985**

*By The Tribune staff and news services*

A former Oakland police officer was convicted of first-degree murder yesterday for the shooting death of an Oakland apartment complex manager.

Douglas Leon Butler, 39, was convicted by an Alameda County Superior Court jury of the June 1984 killing of 52-year-old Elbert Jones, the manager of an apartment complex in the 400 block of Fairmont Avenue where Butler lived.

Butler and Jones had been feuding for at least a month, according to Alameda County Dep-

uty District Attorney Aaron Payne.

It was the third trial for Butler, whose first two trials ended in mistrials.

Jurors in Butler's first trial last June agreed that he was guilty of murder but had not decided whether it was first- or second-degree murder when Judge Alice Sullivan declared a mistrial. The mistrial was declared after several jurors admitted reading a newspaper article about the case.

The article mentioned that Butler was a former police offi-

cer, a fact that his lawyer, Beverly Daniels, asked to be kept from the jury because she said people hold police officers to a higher standard of conduct.

Butler's second trial also ended in a mistrial with the jury deadlocked 11-1 in favor of conviction.

Butler was fired from the Oakland Police Department in 1972 after he was accused of kicking and punching a prisoner detained by two other officers.

Butler is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Alfred Delucchi on Jan. 9.

**FRI JAN 31 1986**

## **Former officer sentenced in shooting death**

Douglas Leon Butler, 39, a former Oakland police officer, was sentenced to 27 years to life in state prison yesterday for the June 1984 shooting death of an Oakland apartment manager.

After he was sentenced, Butler asked to be freed on bail while he appeals the verdict. He said there were no eyewitnesses or physical evidence connecting him to the slaying of Elbert Jones, 52.

But Judge Alfred Delucchi of Alameda County Superior Court denied bail for Butler during the 60 days Butler has to appeal. Delucchi said that because Butler faces a long prison term, there is a chance he would flee if he were freed on bail pending an appeal.

Delucchi added that Butler, who had a history of engaging in police brutality, faces several drug charges.

Prosecutors said they will press ahead with two drug charges involving possession of cocaine.

"While it was not made absolutely clear, there was an implication in the evidence that the motive for the killing was related to drugs," Delucchi said.